

West Lake/Bridgeton Landfill Community Advisory Group

April 13, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:38 pm by Doug Clemens.

Roll Call of Exec Board in attendance:

Chair: Doug Clemens

Vice-Chair: Bob Nowlin

Treasurer: Rhonda Steelman

Secretary: Vernita Wilson

Members At Large: Bill Wilson, Lynn Leake absent

Approval of Minutes from March 9 meeting: motioned for vote of approval. Approved.

TASC Summary of December 2014 USGS Groundwater Report Conclusions (see handout)

St Louis County Emergency Management Report – Mark Diedrich, Director

Mark: People are asking to see the emergency plan for the area around the landfill. The plan is not for the residents' use but designed for first responders to use and to establish policies and procedures. We can't do a plan with a formula of A, B, C, and D of what to do because they won't know what the emergency will be.

Our office works with the whole community, the Police Department, Fire Department, hospitals, schools, businesses, non-profit organizations like Salvation Army and Red Cross, government agencies with cities and municipalities, and work with state and federal. We work with citizens. I'm here tonight to give you an idea of what you need to do to help us and help yourself.

Dan Stumpf and Brian Adams will be working with this and you will see one of us at every meeting, with the exception of a major event taking place like a tornado. Feel free to pull one of us aside and we'll be glad to talk with you to answer any questions to the best of our ability.

I am giving a slide presentation sharing the basics of a plan and listing my email address for those who want a copy of the plan. The plan will probably not be exactly what the community wants to see; we can't restrict everyone by putting together a plan that has a formula of A, B, C, and D because the situation may demand different procedures.

Below are some guidelines for efficient, effective, and coordinated emergency operations for any disaster.

3 steps to preparedness for a disaster:

1. Get together an **Emergency Supply Kit** with basic supplies for your family and pets for four days.

Prepare at least two kits: one for home with non-perishable foods, not requiring refrigeration, cooking, or water for preparation. Canned food along with a manual can opener, granola bars, and cereal are good items. Store one gallon of water for each person/pet per day. Flashlights with extra batteries, a First-Aid kit, Radio (battery-powered with NOAA weather alert function is

best, a whistle to help in communicating if trapped (keep one by your bed, too), wrench or pliers to turn off utilities, if necessary. Pack a deck of cards, board games, or other items to help pass the family's time. Remember medications.

A second kit should be a smaller portable kit to take with you if you have to leave; and if possible, kits for your office or car.

2. Make a **Family Emergency Plan** – The St Louis County Office of Emergency has a template you get on-line to help get you started. You may not be together as a family when an emergency happens so plan in advance how to get in touch with each other and get back together. Since local phone systems may not work, set up an out-of-town contact that everyone can call. Be sure family members have a copy of this form. Where will you go to meet as a family? Who will be your out-of-town contact?

Shelter in Place - When you *shelter in place*, you seal off an indoor area to create a barrier between you and potentially contaminated air outdoors. Typically, *shelter in place* emergencies last several hours, not days. Know that we are working on maintaining hour safety.

The alarms go out to the whole St Louis County area to keep you safe so watch TV or listen to your radio to find out where the storm is most significant. Go downstairs, turn on the TV or radio. We recommend getting a NOAA all-hazard radio which can be set to alert you to a storm.

The reason for *shelter in place* is because if something happens, it is best to stay inside until we know what is happening. A determination needs to be made as to what chemicals we're dealing with, are contaminants going into the air, which direction is the wind blowing, is any smoke being carried straight up and blown out of the area? If the situation is determined to be toxic, more precautions need to be taken. *Shelter in place* is best while this determination is made.

Shelter In place means to bring family and pets indoors, close all windows and doors, close all air vents/fireplace dampers, and turn off A/C units that draw in outside air. Go to an interior room with few or no windows in the upper or ground level. Seal all windows, doors and air vents with plastic sheeting and duct tape. Your windows and doors are the weakest part of your house as far as efficiency.

Before the *shelter in place* –Pre-measure and cut plastic sheeting for your doors and windows, remembering to keep tape handy. Teach your family members where the electric, gas, and water shut-off valves are located, what tools are needed (keep wrench nearby) and how to shut those off. You may not be instructed to do so but be prepared to do so.

EVACUATION:

Have an emergency supply kit ready to go.

Have a family communications plan in place -- know where your family will plan to meet and how to reach the out-of-town contact person.

Follow recommended evacuation routes since an important part of the information will be where you need to go and how to get there.

Take your pets with you.

Secure your home by locking your doors and, if instructed to do so, shutting off utilities.

Check on neighbors who may need a ride.

3. Be informed

Notification will come via local media such as TV, radio and news websites. Check into getting a NOAA all-hazard radio which can alert you in the event of a storm.

Nixle – www.nixle.com

Enter your zip code and choose what notifications you would like to receive

Mark's email is mdiedrich@stlouisco.com.

Linda Eaker: Is there any money to provide local people with radios? There is a weather app on your phone that will go off if you have that set up.

Mark: Right now, no, but it is something we can look into.

Tara: Should I go upstairs if it's a chemical contamination?

Mark: Yes, this is different from going to the basement during storm or tornado warnings. For the *shelter in place*, you will go upstairs.

Bob Nowlin: Will the tornado sirens be activated with the voice notification capability and will Spanish Village be getting a siren?

Mark: All the new tornado sirens will have the voice notification. A new one will be installed in the Spanish Village area. We will not use tornado sirens to notify you of a landfill situation. The sirens are designed to be used outside. Inside, you should be listening to weather radio, television, or other media. We don't want it to be confusing as to whether it's a tornado or evacuation.

EPA Introduction of Remedial Project Manager, Brad Vann

Brief background -- worked for U.S Army Corps of Engineers for 14 years, Geologist – worked with military destruction or other areas where digging in the ground, putting holes in things. Has worked on a number of federal facility projects. Worked at Weldon Springs and other EPA sites, at a number of groundwater treatment systems. There is a long legacy of federal facilities where I have worked. My strength is in regards to site clean-up and ground water clean-up.

The SuperFund process is designated, it's a long process, and sometimes a painful process. At this time, there is a lot for me to come up to speed and I plan to spend time with many of you as I get educated and informed on the site. This is the thing you care about the most, this is your family, so I don't blow that off. That is why I take my job very seriously. I investigate, I don't discount anything, and I know there is a long history of animosity and we will pursue getting this done right. I want to hear everybody and I want to have some one-on-one conversations. As things progress as far as the clean-up goes, I will be at the clean-up. I'm invested in those kinds of things. I became a geologist and I have to go outside to be on the job. We're going to keep working on this and pursue getting the work done. If you want to get mad at me and yell, go ahead. A former military base can be a good training ground for a young geologist. I don't know all the answers but we will get there by communicating together. We may not

always see things with the same perspective but I will listen to you as part of putting the pieces together and figure the job out. This job is pretty complicated. I left four other projects and 78 other contracts to work on this one project exclusively. This is my job now. I will be here afterwards to talk with you. Please come and shake my hand and give me your name. Some of you have turned in questions and I don't have those done yet. I want to get your questions answered right.

Multiple agencies are working on the sight and a lot of people working a lot of pieces. We did a drive by today so we get it, we understand it, and have spoken with many of you to pull together more information. We won't always agree but let me know where we're not agreeing and maybe there's a little piece I'm missing. We will try to communicate in a way that is understandable.

CAG Technical Committee Report, Ed Smith

We are still working out the kinks and getting this moving forward and working with Terrie for communities grants. Keep sending the CAG your questions and they will be forwarded to us to get more information together to be sure the questions are clear. We are working on where more clarity is needed, looking at the base-line risk assessment, for example. Lastly, we would like to have a comprehensive library of all the documents involved with this and get these at the local library of record or digitally on their website.

Bob: Keep the questions coming and they'll be compiled and they'll all be sent to EPA but they'll also be given to the CAG Technical Committee which will meet monthly, look at all the questions, see if there needs to be some clarification so the EPA will know what is really meant, combine like questions, not having to answer in duplicate, and they will come up with additional questions because of their expertise and interest in certain areas. Following the Tech Committee, there will be a teleconference with the EPA so they can start working on those questions to report back to you in writing or verbally, if the Tech committee thinks this is something that needs to be addressed at a meeting. Terrie is an ex-officio member of the Tech Committee and participates in person, SKYPE, or by teleconference call. The Tech committee will be looking at some of those questions in more detail and help us understand it better.

Hopefully, you'll be seeing a new communication process here with the EPA and with Terrie so that we can have more of an ongoing dialogue. It has worked well this first month and we look forward to seeing how it progresses. Ed Smith is providing a lot of help to this committee.

Doug: As we get up to speed, we will be able to present to you more.

Ed: The FACT Sheets and info sheets that Terrie is putting together are on-line now.

Questions:

Tara: Is sulphur being emitted from the landfill? The answers are vague. Why can't we get an answer for this question?

Dawn: On March 25th, there is a letter from MODNR Air Pollution Control Program has updated its calculations of Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) emissions from Bridgeton Sanitary Landfill candlestick flairs and

has determined the combined emissions from these flairs exceeds 250 tons per year. That's a lot. Last year, it was 50, and the year before that it was only like 3.78.

Tara: Will this give us permanent eye damage?

Bob: Health issues are not the EPA's jurisdiction.

Doug: Erin was unable to attend this evening. We will seek an answer with her.

Harvey: We have made a request with St Louis County Dept of Health and they have agreed to look at clusters of symptoms possibly caused by including sulfur emissions in regard to health affects to people in the area.

Motion to Close: Dawn and Wendy

Closed: 7:48 pm.

Attendance: 35